

27. Purified caveolae prepared by a method comprising the step of subjecting a sample of interest comprising plasma membranes to an immunoisolation method to separate caveolae from other materials in the sample of interest, wherein the immunoisolation method comprises incubating the sample of interest with an antibody that is specific for caveolin and which binds to oligomerized caveolin, and separating caveolae that are bound to the antibody from other materials in the sample of interest.
28. Purified caveolae prepared by a method comprising:
- a) providing a sample of interest comprising plasma membranes;
  - b) subjecting the sample of interest to a membrane disruption method, thereby producing a disrupted plasma membrane sample;
  - c) subjecting the disrupted plasma membrane sample to an immunoisolation method to separate caveolae from other materials in the disrupted plasma membrane sample, wherein the immunoisolation method comprises incubating the initial fractions with an antibody that is specific for caveolin and which binds to oligomerized caveolin, and separating caveolae that are bound to the antibody from other materials in the disrupted plasma membrane sample.
29. Purified caveolae prepared by a method comprising:
- a) providing a sample of interest comprising plasma membranes;
  - b) subjecting the sample of interest to a membrane disruption method, thereby producing a disrupted plasma membrane sample;
  - c) subjecting the disrupted plasma membrane sample to a separation method based on density, thereby producing fractions of the disrupted plasma membrane sample, and collecting initial fractions of the disrupted plasma membrane sample;
  - d) subjecting the initial fractions of the disrupted plasma membrane sample to an immunoisolation method to separate caveolae from the initial fractions, wherein the immunoisolation method comprises incubating the initial fractions with an antibody that is specific for caveolin and which binds to oligomerized caveolin, and separating caveolae that are bound to the antibody from other materials in the initial fractions.

30. Purified caveolae prepared by a method comprising:

- a) providing a sample of plasma membranes from cells of interest;
- b) subjecting the sample of plasma membranes to a membrane disruption method, thereby producing a disrupted plasma membrane sample;
- c) subjecting the disrupted plasma membrane sample to a separation method based on density, thereby producing fractions of the disrupted plasma membrane sample, and collecting initial fractions of the disrupted plasma membrane sample;
- d) subjecting the initial fractions of the disrupted plasma membrane sample to an immunoisolation method to separate caveolae from the initial fractions, wherein the immunoisolation method comprises incubating the initial fractions with an antibody that is specific for caveolin and which binds to oligomerized caveolin, for a time period that is less than approximately 2 hours, and separating caveolae that are bound to the antibody from other materials in the initial fractions.

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REMARKS

Claims 10, 18, 23 and 26, which were withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner as being drawn to non-elected inventions, have been canceled. Claims 27-30 have been added. Support for Claims 27-30 is found throughout the specification and in Claims 1, 11, 19 and 24. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-9, 11-17, 19-22, 24-25 and 27-30 are pending.

Product of Claims 27-30

Claims 27-30 are drawn to purified caveolae prepared by specific methods (i.e., methods described in Claims 1, 11, 19 and 24, respectively): in particular, for example, Claims 26-30 each indicate that the purified caveolae are produced by a method that includes an immunoisolation method comprising incubating a sample with an antibody that is specific for caveolin and which binds to oligomerized caveolin. Because Claims 26-30 specify the method by which the purified caveolae are obtained, it is clear that the purified caveolae of the claims cannot be produced by any other method, such as methods described in US Patent 5,776,770 as cited by the Examiner.